Decade of disabled Persons

3169. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the period from 1993 to 2002 has been declared as a decade of disabled persons:

(b) whether an India-China seminar on multi-sectoral collaborative action for people with disabilities was held recently;

(c) if so, the salient features of the seminar; and

(d) the names of other international agencies who had attended the seminar and the decisions taken therein?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) The period from 1993-2002 has been declared as the Asian and Pacific Decade of Desabled Persons by UN-ESCAP.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Seminar was held from 25th March, 1997 to 2nd April, 1997 in New Delhi.

(c) Statement-I is laid on the Table of the House (*See* below).

(d) Statement-II is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement-I

Salient Features of the Seminar

The main objective of the Seminar was to bring together the officials of the diverse Ministries and NGO's from India and China to evolve a multisectoral strategy for inclusion of the people with disabilities in the mainstream policies and programmes.

2. The Seminar was attended by 84 participants from India and China. 16 member Chinese delegation included the Government officials from diverse Ministries and China Disabled Persons Federation. The participants from India included senior officials at central and state level from various sectors. Besides, representatives of eminent NGOs in the fields of disability also participated. Working Groups were constituted to specifically discuss issues relating to education, health, vocational training and employement, communication, coordination, legislation and planning and resources allocation for giving suitable recommendations concerning fulfilment of targets for implementation of the agenda for action of Asia and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons. Chinese delegation and some of the resource persons were also taken to Bangalore, Young India Project in Andhra Pradesh and Spastic Society of Northern India, New Delhi to enable them to get a perspective on the work of voluntary organisations for the people with disabilities at the gross-roots.

Statement-II

The names of other International Agencies from abroad who participated in the Seminar

1. Ms Barbara Murray,
   ILO (EASMAT),
   Bangkok,
   Thailand.
2. Ms. San Yuenwah,
   Social Affairs Officer,
   Social Development Division,
   ESCAP,
   Bangkok,

Various decisions were taken on inter-sectoral issues and multisectoral collaboration for realising the goal of equal opportunities and full participation of people with disabilities. Certain concrete areas were identified in the area of education, health, vocational training and employment, and communication for inclusion of concerns of people with disabilities in the mainstream policies and programmes of relevant sectors. Similary inter-sectoral issues were also discussed and recommendations were made for greater coordination between various sectors, and allocation of resources for the disability-related concerns by all sectors for effective implementation of the Act.

Introducing total Prohibition in the Country

3170. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of States in the country where the unanimous resolution of the Lok Sabha in March, 1996, for introducing total prohibition in the country are followed;